

A1

function indicated by equation (2) or (3) for the nodes of these probe candidates, and stored in these nodes. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 30, line 13 and ending at page 31, line 2 as follows:

A2

-- In the above example, a specific base position is evaluated by two values, i.e., whether or not specificity exists. However, a specific base position can also be evaluated by continuous values by using a scale such as entropy as explained in the first embodiment. For example, portions having * marks in Fig. 12 are called specific base sequences. In some of these locations, most types are G and only one type is A (the entropy decrease is small); in some other locations, half types are G and the other half types are A (the entropy decrease is large). As described previously, discrimination is advantageously performed if a location having a large entropy decrease is present in the center. Therefore, weighting is so performed for equation (4), e.g., an entropy decrease at the position of a specific base sequence is integrated to equation (4). This allows more accurate evaluation of proven candidate quality. --.